

Monroe Lake

Program Schedule

on the back!

Website

stateparks.in.gov/2954.htm



E-Newsletter

bit.ly/monroeprograms



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Monroe Lake Office (Paynetown SRA): 4850 S. State Road 446, Bloomington, IN 47401, 812-837-9546
Monroe Lake Naturalist (Paynetown SRA: Activity Center): Jill Vance, 812-837-9967, jvance@dnr.IN.gov

Campground Reservations (Paynetown SRA): 866-622-6746, CAMP.IN.gov

Lake Monroe General Store and Boat Rental (at Paynetown SRA): 812-837-9909

Four Winds Resort & Marina, Boat Rental (at Fairfax SRA): 812-824-2628, fourwindsresort.com

Lake Monroe Marina and Boat Rental (at Cutright SRA): 812-837-9394, lakemonroemarina.com

Laura Thorne Training, kayaks - SUPs - wind surfing - lessons (at Fairfax SRA): 812-797-4747



Paynetown Activity Center

Open Daily from 1 to 5 p.m. 812-837-9967

Located next to the Swimming Beach inside Paynetown SRA

Got a question? Ask a Naturalist!

The **Naturalist's Office** is located inside the Activity Center. You can also pick up maps/brochures/flyers or browse our library of field guides and other books.

Live Snakes & Interpretive Exhibits

Check in on our live snakes! We rotate in a new set of wall/shelf exhibits at the beginning of each summer and feature a large selection of taxidermy animals on permanent display.

Hoosier Quest: Explore, Discover, Challenge

You can **collect a unique pin** for each Indiana State Park in *Explore* (each property can often be completed during a single day/weekend visit). Individuals can also earn special patches through both *Discover* and *Challenge*.

Free Fishing Equipment Rental

Renters must be at least 18 years of age with a valid government ID. **Check-out up to 4 sets per person** during open hours; return between 1 and 5 p.m. the next day.

Daily Craft & Coloring Table

We feature a **different craft each day**; most crafts are suitable for ages 5+. Another table is always stocked with crayons and a selection of coloring pages.

Kids' Play Area & Small World Play Station

Puppet stage, board and card games, puzzles, large felt board, picture books, touch table, and **Small World play station** (features rotating set of landscapes with miniature animals and habitat elements).

Jigsaw Puzzle Table

Spend a few minutes or a whole afternoon working on our current jigsaw puzzle (500-1500 piece puzzles designed for older children and adults). A different puzzle is rotated in after each puzzle is completed.

Recycling Center

Recycle your **aluminum cans** with us! Proceeds fund programs, activities, and exhibits. You can also recycle plastic bottles and paper (no food containers).



Paynetown Fossil Dig Love searching for fossils? Check out our Fossil Dig at the **back end of the Overflow Parking Area** at Paynetown SRA! Although rock and fossil collecting is prohibited at Monroe Lake, any rocks and fossils found *in this activity site* can be taken home with you!



Program Schedule

JULY 2016

Locations are at PAYNETOWN SRA, unless otherwise noted.

ROVING NATURALIST

One of our naturalists typically walks through the Campground area on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, as well as on Sunday mornings.

We may have an interesting item to share, a quick game to play, or an invite to an upcoming program. And don't be afraid to ask us your questions!

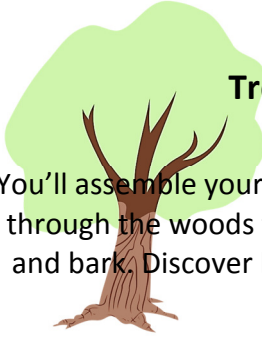
We offer both drop-in programs (from ___ to ___), where you may arrive at any point during that time period, as well as programs with a specific start time (at ___). **If the program has a specific start time, please make sure you arrive on time or we may start/leave without you!**

Programs listed here are designed for families/individuals. Schools, scouts, and other organized groups should contact the Monroe Lake Naturalist for info on scheduling a private program (minimum 2 weeks notice required).

Friday, July 1

Tree Trek Hike at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at Trailhead



You'll assemble your own tree ID guide as we hike through the woods to take a closer look at leaves and bark. Discover how to recognize 10 different species! *60 minutes*

Butterflies in Camo from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Beach

Drop by to learn how butterflies have developed different colors and patterns for camouflage – and then design your own butterfly, based on the habitat that you think it would live in.

Hoot, Hoot, Screech! at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

Learn about the different types of owls that live at Monroe Lake, exploring their unique calls and special adaptations for a nocturnal lifestyle. We'll finish by making an owl craft! *45 minutes*

Saturday, July 2

This Hike is for the Dogs! at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Meet in the overflow parking lot (by the trail head)

Bring your favorite canine companion(s) and join us for a morning trail hike! We'll discuss the potential risks that your dog could encounter in the outdoors – and how you can keep it safe and happy during your visit to the lake. Treats at the end of the hike for all four-legged participants! *45 minutes*

Wind Chimes from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Shelter

Drop by to construct your own set of unique wind chimes! *Craft takes between 20 and 60 minutes to complete, depending on the person (simple and sweet vs. detailed perfection!); please keep that in mind, as the craft station will shut down promptly at 4:30 p.m.*

Under the Sea... err... make that LAKE! from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Location: Beach

Drop by to learn about the delicate underwater ecosystems of Monroe Lake. Learn about the most common fishes, snakes, and other water-dwelling critters that call Monroe Lake home and how they interact with one another.

Modern-day Dinosaurs at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

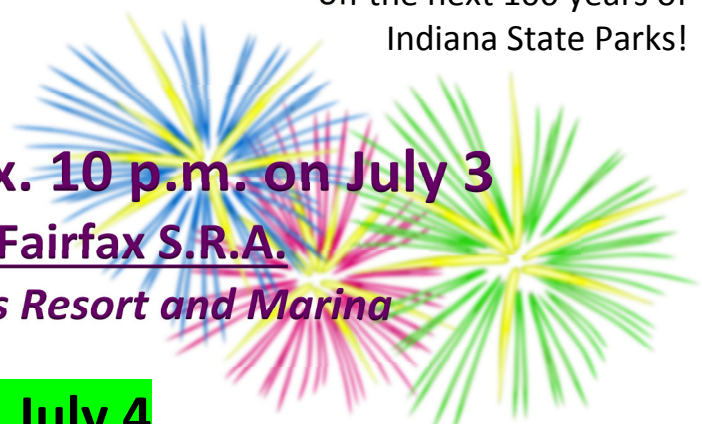
Did you see a dinosaur today? We bet the answer is "yes," even if you didn't realize it! Today's birds are direct descendants of the dinosaurs – and we'll take a look at some of the traits that the two groups share. *45 minutes*





Join us for a party as we celebrate 100 years of Indiana State Parks (and 58 years of Monroe Lake)! Games, activities, and ice cream(!)... bring your family and friends and help us kick off the next 100 years of Indiana State Parks!

FIREWORKS at approx. 10 p.m. on July 3
Launching from Fairfax S.R.A.
Presented by Fourwinds Resort and Marina



Monday, July 4

Discover, Connect, Explore! at 11:00 a.m.

Program Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

Come and learn about Indiana State Park's Hoosier Quest program! Complete challenges and activities to earn incentives in Discover and Connect, or collect a unique pin from each of our properties in Explore. We'll introduce you to all three programs and help you get started (you've probably already completed some requirements this weekend!). There's an option for all age levels (yes, adults too!). **30 minutes**

Snake Chat from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

Program Location: Activity Center

We'll have one of our live snakes out for you to see up-close and touch! The naturalist will share info about the snake and answer your snake-related questions. (*Snake Chats are held each Monday during the summer. On some Mondays, we'll also be feeding the snakes!*)



Tuesday, July 5

Flora Field Day at 9:30 a.m.

- Sign up for this session at <http://bit.ly/florafieldjuly2016>
- Registration required by July 1.
- Free; recommended for ages 12 and up.
- Session location: Crooked Creek SRA

Want to work on your flora identification skills? Practice with a naturalist! Field day emphasis is on proper use and application of an ID key, which opens the door to identifying thousands of species. The naturalist will work with each attendee based on their prior experience. If you've never worked with flower ID before, this is a great way to learn. If you have prior experience, this is a fun way to practice your skills (and maybe add some new blooms to your life list!). **2 hours**

Things to Bring:

- Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (extra copies available, if you don't have your own)
- bug spray (long pants are also a good idea!)
- hat and sunglasses (for sun protection)
- water bottle (pre-filled)
- camera (if you're the picture-taking type)

Future Flora Field Day Sessions:

August 2, September 6, October 4

Wednesday, July 6

Build a Bullroarer from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Location: Campground Playground

Drop by to build your own bullroarer, which imitates the roaring of the wind or the howling of a wolf, and learn about its Native American origins.

Thursday, July 7

Tent Talk from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Campground Playground

Want to expand from camping in a campground to camping in the broader outdoors? Drop by to learn about the 3 Ws and the 200 Rule of selecting an appropriate campsite – and learn about the important of minimal impact. We'll also have a cute tent craft that you can make!

HERITAGE DAYS

Friday, July 8 to Sunday, July 10

Friday, July 8

Sun Standard Time at 11:45 a.m.

Location: Beach

How did people tell time before clocks and watches? They used the position of the Sun! Make a simple sun dial and learn how to read the position and movement of the Sun. 30 minutes

Animal Artistry from 2 to 4 p.m.

Location: Beach

Drop by to learn about some of the ways that our ancestors sculpted animals in their environment – including right here in Indiana. You can also sculpt your own animal, based on one that you see living in your own neighborhood.

Heritage Village from 4 to 8 p.m.

Location: Lakeview Shelter (far side of beach)

Reenactors portraying time periods from 1745 to the 1890s invite you to step back in time as you wander through their camps! Pioneer traders, Native Americans, skilled craftsmen, soldiers, civilians, and cowboys... *During this afternoon and evening, reenactors will be arriving to set up their camps for the weekend. The public is invited to wander through and watch the process – and maybe catch a few stories (or tall tales!).*



Meteoric Folklore at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

What did our ancestors think when they looked up into the night sky and spotted a “shooting star?” Join us this evening to discover some of the stories they developed to explain this phenomenon, learn about upcoming meteor showers that you can watch, and build your own glittering comet! 45 minutes

Saturday, July 9

Heritage Village from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Location: Lakeview Shelter (far side of beach)

Reenactors portraying time periods from 1745 to the 1890s invite you to step back in time as you wander through their camps! Pioneer traders, Native Americans, skilled craftsmen, soldiers, civilians, and cowboys...

Craft and skill demonstrations at various campsites will take place **from 9a to 11:30a and from 1p to 5p**. Activities may include, but are not limited to, weaving, pottery, flint knapping, storytelling, and tomahawk throwing. Visitors to the Heritage Village can enjoy **live music**, including dulcimer, guitar, and fiddle, periodically **between 1p and 5p**. A **pitch-in lunch** will take place **from 11:30a to 1p**. Visitors are invited to join the reenactors for a relaxed meal – please bring a dish to share. Dinner this evening is **“Friendship Stew” at 5p**. If you would like to join the reenactors for dinner, please bring vegetables or meat (pre-cooked) to add to the pot, and your own table service.



Saturday, July 9, Continued...

Whimmy Diddles from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Beach

What in the heck is a whimmy diddle? Drop by to find out – and make one for yourself!



Craig Brenner *presents* Music in Indiana State Parks at 8:00 p.m.

Concert Location: Activity Center Amphitheater (next to the beach)

Some bench seating is available; you may want to bring your own chairs.

Craig Brenner will perform music and invite the young - and young at heart - to join him in exploring the jazzy side of blues, boogie woogie and other piano styles, focusing on Indiana composers and musicians. Attendees will be invited to play along on some tunes, using percussion instruments Craig will provide. Craig will also present some information about the history of the park and about Hoosier composers and musicians. **75 to 90 minutes**

Feelin' Fenced In? from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Location: Beach

Fences are a big part of the American landscape. Drop by to make a fence craft and learn about the roles that fences have played in our history.

This activity is a signature project of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, and is made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Sunday, July 10

Heritage Village from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Lakeview Shelter (far side of beach)

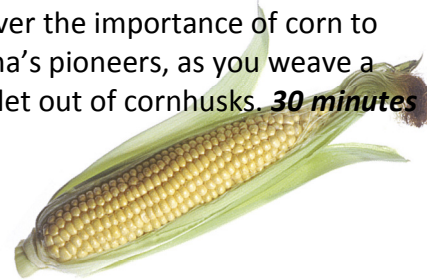
Reenactors portraying time periods from 1745 to the 1890s invite you to step back in time as you wander through their camps! Pioneer traders, Native Americans, skilled craftsmen, soldiers, civilians, and cowboys...

A non-denominational church service will be held in the Village at 9:30 a.m. this morning. Please bring your own chairs or blankets to sit on.

Cornhusk Bracelets at 10:30 a.m.

Location: Activity Center Shelter

Discover the importance of corn to Indiana's pioneers, as you weave a bracelet out of cornhusks. **30 minutes**



Monday, July 11

Snake Chat from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

Program Location:

Activity Center

We'll have one of our live snakes out for you to see up-close and touch! The naturalist will share info about the snake and answer your snake-related questions. *(Snake Chats are held each Monday during the summer. On some Mondays, we'll also be feeding the snakes!)*

Tuesday, July 12

Nature on the Water Paddling Trip at 9:00 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/naturewaterjuly2016>
- Preregistration is required by July 8.
- Program fee is \$10 per person.
- Limited to 8 people. Restricted to ages 16 and up.
- All participants must have at least 2 hours of prior paddling experience OR have completed one of our Intro to Kayaking workshops.
- Bring your own canoe/kayak, or rent a kayak from us for an additional \$25.

Location: Salt Creek on Friendship Road

Explore the quieter side of Monroe Lake during these guided paddling trips that journey through backwaters, wetlands, bays, and/or slow-moving streams. Trips highlight beautiful views, hidden wildlife, aquatic plants, and unique land features. **2 to 2 ½ hours**

Wednesday, July 13

Lots of Leaves from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Location: Campground Playground

Drop by to explore different kinds of leaves (why aren't they all the same?) and capture their shapes with leaf rubbings.

Thursday, July 14

Talk Like an Animal at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

Communication is about more than just speech! We'll explore some of the amazing ways that other species get their message across – and finish with a buzzing bee craft. *30 to 45 minutes*

Friday, July 15

Pollinators Are Important - Bee-lieve It! from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Campground Playground

If you like to eat food, you should care deeply about pollinators! Drop by to learn about the important role they play and make a quick bee craft.

Be an Animal Dentist from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Beach

Drop by to check out some different types of animal teeth and discover what they can tell us about an animal's diet.



Fish Prints from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Campground Playground

Drop by with a cotton t-shirt (or other clothing item) and decorate it with gyotaku (fish prints), while you learn about the different parts of a fish. Don't have a t-shirt? We'll have fabric swatches that you can use instead.

Saturday, July 16

Build a Bug from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

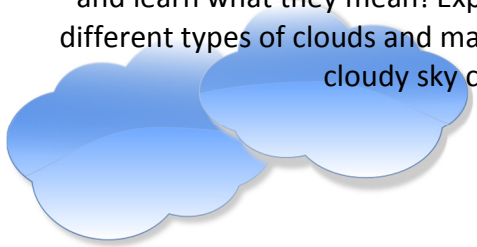
Location: Campground Playground

Drop by to check out some live insects, learn about the parts that all insects have, and then design your own!

Head in the Clouds from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Location: Beach

Drop by to get your head in the clouds – and learn what they mean! Explore different types of clouds and make a cloudy sky craft.



Food for the Birds from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Patio

Drop by to explore the different kinds of food that birds eat (including our state bird!) and make a pine cone bird feeder.

Raffia Basket Workshop at 7:45 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Shelter

Learn basic basket-making technique as you create a small raffia basket (we'll also tell you about the basket-making factory that was once located where the lake is now). Recommended for ages 12 and up; kids ages 8 to 11 must have an adult helper. ***Cost is \$3 person (cash only); supplies limited to the first 16 participants. 60 minutes***

Sunday, July 17

Asian Clam Photo Frame from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Program Location: Beach

Did you know that collecting shells in Indiana State Parks is prohibited? This important rule helps us to protect threatened and endangered mussel species. There's one mussel species in Monroe Lake, however, that we'd be happy to see go away – the non-native invasive Asian Clam! Learn how to recognize this common mussel, and make a picture frame with its shells to help you remember how to recognize it in the future.

Monday, July 18

Snake Chat from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

Program Location: Activity Center

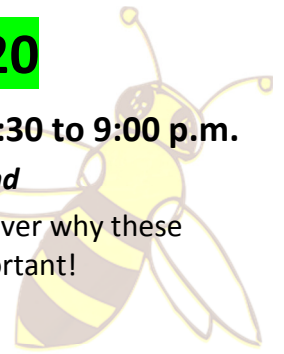
We'll have one of our live snakes out for you to see up-close and touch! The naturalist will share info about the snake and answer your snake-related questions. *(Snake Chats are held each Monday during the summer. On some Mondays, we'll also be feeding the snakes!)*

Wednesday, July 20

What's the Buzzzzzz? from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Campground Playground

Drop by to build a bee – and discover why these buzzing insect are extremely important!



Wednesday, July 20

Return of the Bald Eagle at 7:00 p.m.

The majestic Bald Eagle, a symbol of America, disappeared from Indiana as a direct result of human activity. This evening, we'll share the story of how this beautiful bird was returned to our state and our skies thanks to a reintroduction program implemented right here at Monroe Lake. The first portion of this program is an indoor presentation. The second portion is a hike to view the remnants of the hacking tower – where the eaglets in the reintroduction program were raised and took their first flight. **2 hours**



- Sign up for this session at <http://bit.ly/eaglereturnjuly2016>
- Registration required by July 17.
- Free, but limited to 20 people.
- Location: Northfork Service Area on McGowan Road

Thursday, July 21

Stories and S'mores at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

We'll share a folktale from American history and discuss why storytelling is so important – and finish with another American tradition, s'mores! **45 minutes**

Friday, July 22

Why Is the Sky Blue? from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Beach

Why is the sky blue? Admit it – you've wondered! Drop by to find out the answer...

Design a Bird from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

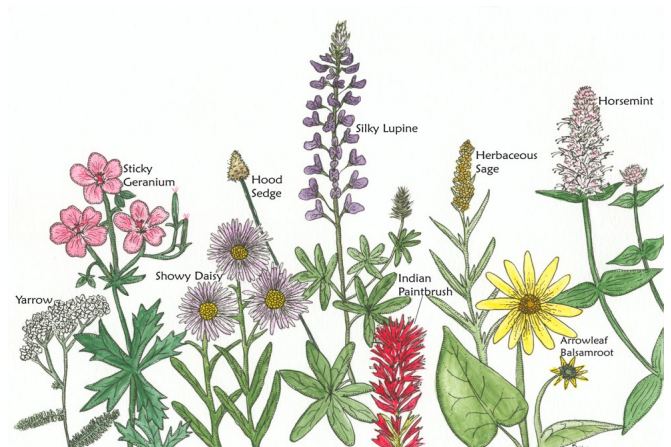
Location: Beach

Drop by to learn about how birds have different adaptations to help them survive – and then design your own bird!

Flower Power at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

What's blooming at the park in late July? Discover some of the flowers you're likely to see and make a wildflower-inspired craft. **45 minutes**



Saturday, July 23

Monroe Lake Invaders from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Beach

Drop by to learn about the invaders that are threatening our park, and how you can help stop them – and make a craft to help you remember what one of these invaders looks like.

Wildflower Dissection from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Patio

Drop by to dissect a flower and learn why each part is important.

Snakes! at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

Want to know which snakes you may see at Monroe Lake? We'll talk about which species are most common and where they hang out – and you can meet our live education snakes. *45 minutes*

Sunday, July 24

Campfire Cooking Workshop at 10:00 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/campfirecookingjuly2016>
- Register by July 17.
- Cost is \$20 per person.
- Limited to 10 people.
- Recommended for ages 10 and up; children must be accompanied by a registered adult.
- Location: Paynetown SRA

Whether you want to add variety to your next camping menu or just pick up a new cooking skill, this workshop is for you! We'll teach different techniques and recipes for cooking with an open wood-burning fire. Participants will prepare, cook/bake, and eat a variety of food. Everyone takes home a set of recipes (and usually a plate of extra food!). **2 to 2 ½ hours**

Wednesday, July 27

Wildlife Treasure Hunt at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Overflow Parking Area (by trailhead)

Humans aren't the only animals using our property! We'll go on a "treasure hunt" to discover the wildlife hiding beneath our feet, above our heads, and everywhere in between. *45 to 60 minutes*

Monday, July 25

Lunch with Nature Series at 11:00 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/lwnjuly2016>
- Register by July 22.
- Limited to 12 people, recommended for adults.
- Location: Paynetown SRA

Join us for our monthly Lunch with Nature Series! Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the main presentation. Afterwards, there is a short hike/activity that highlights the topic. **90 minutes**

This month's topic is: Great Blue Heron. With a call that sounds prehistoric, the majestic Great Blue Heron is one of the most commonly sighted large birds at Monroe Lake. We'll explore its life cycle and history.

Snake Chat from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

Program Location: Activity Center

We'll have one of our live snakes out for you to see up-close and touch! The naturalist will share info about the snake and answer your snake-related questions.

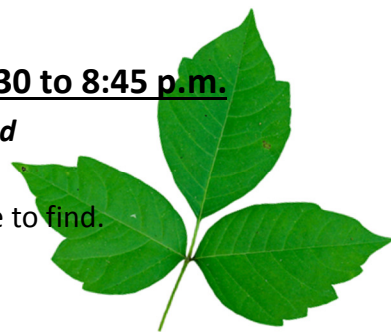
Thursday, July 28

That Plant Is Poison! from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Location: Campground Playground

It's drivin' me out of my mind!
Unfortunately, it's not hard for me to find.
Can't get it off of my hands!
Itch it, scratch it, aloe it
(Wrong move, it's spread!)

Drop by to learn about poison ivy – how to identify it, treat it, and avoid getting it in the first place! You can also make a simple craft that will help you recognize it in the future.





Friday, July 29

Waves on the Water from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Beach

How are waves actually “built?” Why do bigger lakes have bigger waves? Drop by for a simple demonstration of wave motion!

Good Buddies? Or Bad? from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Beach

Symbiosis, commensalism, mutualism, parasitism... these are all types of relationships that animals and plants can have with each other. Which are good? Which are bad? Could some be both? Drop by to learn about a few species that interact *very* directly with each other – and play a card game that will help you remember their relationships!

Habitat, Habitat, Got to Have a Habitat! at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Overflow Parking Lot (by trailhead)

Join the naturalist for an evening hike to visit 3 different habitats (woods, shoreline, and field) and learn about important things that make each one unique – and play a “BINGO” inspired game along the way! *60 minutes*

Saturday, July 30

Yoga on the Beach at 7:30 a.m.

Location: Beach



Enjoy the natural beauty, fresh air, and soundscape of Monroe Lake during an easy morning yoga session on the sand (beginner friendly!). Bring a beach towel! *30 minutes*

Upcycled Fish Mobiles from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Location: Beach

Drop by to turn some old mason jar lids into a unique fish mobile, inspired by some of the fish that live here in Monroe Lake. *Craft will take most people 30 to 45 minutes to complete; please plan your arrival time accordingly.*

Walk Through Geologic Time from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

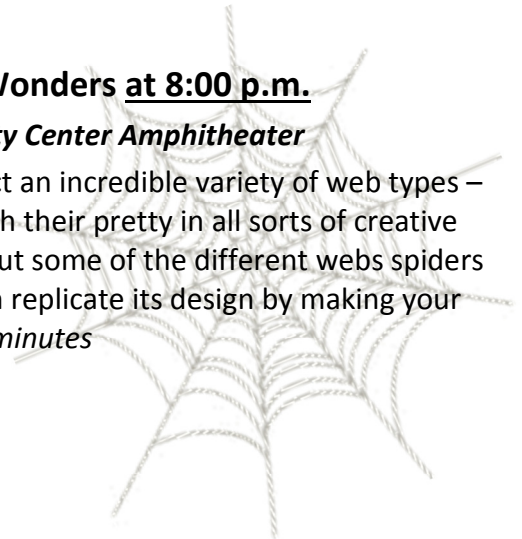
Location: Beach

Think humans have been around for a long time? Think again! On the time scale of the Earth, we’ve only just appeared... drop by to take a walk along our geologic time scale and rethink your definitions of “old” and new!”

Spider Web Wonders at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

Spiders construct an incredible variety of web types – designed to catch their pretty in all sorts of creative ways. Learn about some of the different webs spiders weave, and then replicate its design by making your own “web.” *45 minutes*



Sunday, July 31

Intro to Kayaking at 10:00 a.m.

If you love seeing wildlife, or just enjoy exploring, kayaking is for you! Kayaks let you reach backwater areas and quiet bays that aren’t otherwise accessible; it’s a wonderful way to experience Monroe Lake. This workshop is specifically designed for beginners with zero (or very little) paddling experience. We’ll teach you all the basic skills and provide supervised paddling time in a quiet water area to practice. **Kayaks, paddles, and lifejackets are all provided. 2 hours**

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/introkayakjuly2016>
- Registration required by July 26.
- Cost is \$10 per person.
- Limited to 8 people; ages 8 and up.
- Location: Paynetown SRA